

Again on Saturday, against unpretentious Barking, the Wanderers had only themselves to blame for their failure. A paralysing inability to find the back of the net—and some sheer bad luck—cost them the points.

Barking, who had shaken the Isthmians by whipping Tooting and Mitcham a few days previously, gave Wycombe an object lesson in accepting goal-scoring chances, writes "Argus". But for a sorry saga of missed chances Wycombe, who had the breeze in their favour during the first half, ought to have changed round with a three goals lead.

Unluckiest player of all was Cliff Trott, helped to the dressing room late in the game with a gaping wound over his right eye after a clash-of-heads injury which necessitated four stitches.

NO CONFIDENCE

Fortune's pricks apart, the lack of confidence in front of the enemy goal brought about this Wycombe defeat. Sinuous dribbling and velvet passing are all very well but goals win championships and at the moment Wycombe's capacity to score falls far short of their creative ability.

Surprisingly hesitant to shoot, the Wycombe forwards were painfully off the beam when they did let fly. Still searching vainly for the elusive goal touch, Paul Bates lacked little else. Both he and Len Worley showed much brighter form when it came to moving with the ball at speed.

Long sprints by Worley and Bates which took them weaving through the Barking defence ought to have produced goals enough. But as the game progressed, anxious Wycombe seemed to be relying more and more on Dennis Atkins' mighty shot. Sure enough Dennis flared in one of his rockets—but too late to make any difference.

AGGRESSIVE

Truett and Moring shattered many Barking attacks with steely tackling, while centre-half John Bartholomew just won the battle of the crew-cuts with the rugged Oliver.

Barking played fast, aggressive soccer—particularly in the second half when they made the Wanderers pay dearly for missed opportunities.

And what chances Wycombe enjoyed! Bates, the Barking goalkeeper quivering helplessly in front of him, shot weakly outside . . . Fryer, in similar circumstances, baffled himself by touching the ball past the wrong side of the post.

BOMBHELL

Hardly had the referee's whistle started the second half than Cliff Trott had beaten the entire Barking defence—all except a vigilant full back who raced up from nowhere to clear.

Then in the 51st minute, came a bombshell which made Wycombe fans quake. Left-winger Southgate veered past both Bartholomew and Brown to steer a harmless-looking through ball into the visitors' net.

The Wanderers made a brave effort to get back on terms, and there was the all-too-brief but majestic sight of Bates gliding past four Barking defenders before an unlucky deflection robbed him of the ball. When Wycombe came back again Truett, up for a corner, hammered the ball back for goalkeeper Smith to save heroically.

A suspiciously off-side goal by Oliver, brilliantly taken from a narrow angle sent Wycombe back on their heels and they were in even greater trouble when Trott was led from the field.

With five minutes to go, Atkins blazed Wycombe's lone goal from outside the penalty area after Bates had touched a free kick to him, but ten men never had a hope of achieving what eleven had failed to do.

WYCOMBE GET A SHOCK

Barking 2 Wycombe 1

WYCOMBE'S Isthmian League title hopes took a jolt when Barking, third from bottom of the table, played them right out of the game to take both points.

Wycombe's inside left Cliff Trott was taken off with a badly gashed eye 15 minutes from the end. But that was no excuse for Wycombe. Even before Trott went off they found Barking too fast and too clever.

Barking relied mainly on the thrust of inside-forwards Turner and Olliver. Their direct methods gave Wycombe's half-backs Truett and Bartholomew a tough time.

But Barking's first-half finishing was poor. Turner missed a great chance after five minutes and from then on goalkeeper Brown had little trouble.

Bates had a grand chance to put Wycombe ahead late in the first half, but after beating two men he shot wide.

Winship cleared a strong Trott shot off the goal-line straight after the interval. Seven minutes later, winger Southgate put Barking ahead. In the 78th minute Olliver beat Brown with a fierce shot from a narrow angle for the second.

Aitkens replied for Wycombe from a Bates free-kick eight minutes from the end.